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ARRL Member

ARRL

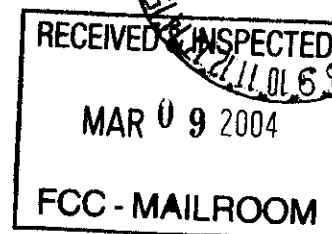
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QST-Correspondence:

Re: "Restructuring II"

"It Seems To Me.....Before Restructuring, And After"

I have to think, that initially, on the face of it, the reasons for the ARRL's Board, were good, to raise it's membership, as well as help others become even better hams. However, after I've had time to re-think the matter, after seeing some of the stuff on the ARRL website previously, for the first time, I first, as a licensed amateur of over 20 years, secondly a member of Handi-Hams, thirdly, as a VE, I have to wonder, in some cases, if what seems to be an almost total restructuring, as proposed by the Board of the ARRL, is even necessary, or fair, I say that for this reason.

Firstly, I'm not really sure that messing with the FCC's 1998 Docket, known as 98-143, is even necessary, as the final decision put forth on April 15, of the year 2000, seems to be working just fine. I here, suggest a question to the Board of the ARRL, and it's members. Respectfully, did the Board of the ARRL stop to think that with each additional privilege given to the brand new ham, operator, (trust me-I know) it many times manages to cause a financial

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hardship, simply because other things, such as the dreaded bills, must be paid first, and if the equipment outpaces in price, the income of the new ham, it just doesn't help, and can be totally discouraging for the new ham.

Therefore, I ask the Board, why introduce new privileges, which the new hams can't afford, unless, and this goes to the manufacturer's, they are willing to give new hams more of a break on their equipment, than a 20.00 coupon, for some of their more expensive equipment. I myself am guilty of giving one person, who is very dear to me, fellow Handi-Hams member, Jill Silverman-KC0JYC, her very first rig, as she couldn't have afforded it otherwise, something it was my pleasure to do

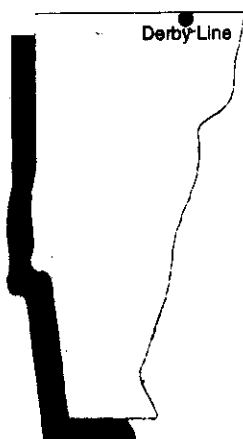
As for merging the present Tech's and Tech Plus licensees into General, that is one thing of which I am not exactly in total favor of, as many of the current techs, may just not be prepared.

As for merging both the Advanced and Extra Class licenses into one, while I am in total favor of that, I do have one question, shouldn't we go back one step, and be able to have Physicians Certificates, once again? The only reason that I ask this, is that ~~are~~^{are} there otherwise qualified ham operators, who are physically challengd, and are certainly intelligent enough to take the Extra exam, the only unfair challenge to them might be the 5wpm code test. I ask you to consider carefully, all that I have said very, very carefully.

73's, Mike Gruteke-K3BRJ

Extra Class Licensee

copy: FCC



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